Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Poets and the Literary Tradition at the Library of Congress

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Poets Carl Sandburg (left) and Robert Frost talk during a visit to the Library in December 1949.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Alice Taylor, Acting Editor

Library Extends Remote Access Pilot Project

The pilot project which has given 14 libraries direct online access to the Library of Congress since last October has been extended through May 31.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington explained: "We needed two additional months to see our partners through the academic year, as well as to gain additional information to evaluate the pilot." Although only seven of the participating libraries are in universities, all except the United States Information Agency Library provide direct service to students.

The participating institutions cover all regions of the country and include state, public, government, and university libraries. During the pilot, they have direct access to the Library of Congress's automated bibliographic, congressional bill status, copyright, and referral information through two systems called MUMS and SCORPIO.

"Our statistics indicate that the libraries have already entered 25,034 MUMS transactions and 113,045 SCORPIO transactions," said pilot coordinator Suzanne Thorin. "For SCORPIO, which accounts for 82 percent of the total activity, we can track specific file usage. The most often accessed is the books file at 48 percent, followed by the congressional bill status file with 22 percent, and the public policy literature file with 21 percent, suggesting a lively interest in the work of the Congress.

"The referral file accounts for six percent of the use and the copyright file for three percent. Over half of the copyright file queries emanate from New York, California, and Boston, reflecting the concentration of the book, music, and film industries in those areas."

The participating institutions are the Boston and District of Columbia public libraries; the Florida State University School of Library and Information Studies; the state libraries of California, New York, and Oregon; the university libraries at Duke, Kentucky, Lehigh, Maryland, Michigan, and Southern California; and Federal libraries in the United States Information Agency and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Five New Appointments Announced at Library

The Library of Congress has announced the following new personnel appointments: Irene Ursula Burnham, interpretive programs officer; Ellen Hahn, director for Public Service and Collections Management II; Kenneth E. Harris, director for preservation; and Winston Tabb, director for Public Service and Collections Management I.

In addition, John Y. Cole has been temporarily promoted to the position of acting Associate Librarian for Cultural Affairs.

Irene Ursula Burnham

Irene Ursula Burnham becomes interpretive programs officer effective May 7. She comes to the Library from the Afro-American Historical

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Nurturing the Literary Life: The Library's Poetry and Literature Center

by Nancy Galbraith

The Library of Congress Poetry Office, for years snugged up under the eaves in the "attic" of the Thomas Jefferson Building, has been renamed the Poetry and Literature Center under the current reorganization of the Library of Congress. As it nears its 40th anniversary, it continues to serve as a vital source of literary life for the Library and the nation.

The center has a staff of two: Jennifer Rutland, praised deservedly by poet after poet, and this writer. Our mission—governed by the terms of the enabling bequests from fabled Library benefactors Gertrude Clarke Whittall (1867–1965) and Archer M. Huntington (1870–1955)—is to foster and enhance the public's appreciation and understanding of good literature and to administer the endowed Chair of Poetry.

Since 1951 the office has coordinated the Library's formal series of public literary readings, lectures, dramatic performances, festivals, and symposia, presented under the auspices of the Whittall literary funds. Whittall funds are also used to publish selected lectures and proceedings of festivals and symposia.

The Poetry and Literature Center is the home of the Library's Chair of Poetry, a post established in 1936 when Archer M. Huntington provided an endowment "for maintenance of a chair of Poetry of the English Language in the Library of Congress." The incumbent was designated Consultant in Poetry in the beginning.

The first Consultant, Joseph Auslander, was appointed in 1937 without a definite term. When Archibald MacLeish became Librarian of Congress, he decided that the Consultantship should be filled on a rotating basis. Throughout the 1940s each Consultant served for only one year. Beginning with Conrad Aiken, Consultants frequently served a second term if circumstances permitted (see list, p. 158).

Consultant in Poetry Léonie Adams at work in the Poetry Room in 1948.

Starting with the 1986–87 appointment the title became Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress (under Public Law 99–194, sponsored by Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga). The first appointment to this post was Robert Penn Warren. He was followed by Richard Wilbur in 1987–88 and Howard Nemerov in 1988–90.

The history of this unique literary post, from its beginning through the announcement of Robert Penn Warren as first Poet Laureate, is chronicled by author William McGuire in *Poetry's Catbird Seat* (Library of Congress, 1988), an engaging and thoroughly researched book.

Now that Prosser Gifford has become director of Scholarly Programs in the Library's new department of Cultural Affairs, he will oversee both the Council of Scholars and the Poetry and Literature Center. He has said, "I look forward to participating in and assisting with the celebration of poetry and literature sustained by Nancy Galbraith and Jennifer Rutland."

In addition, Mr. Gifford invites all interested staff members, as well as other readers of this *Bulletin*, to communicate to him their notions, hopes, and dreams for new poetry-and-literature directions at the Library, and their bouquets and

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brickbats for the "story up to now."

The Library keeps to a minimum the specific official duties it expects of the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, in order to afford each incumbent maximum freedom to work on his or her own projects while at the Library. Each brings a new emphasis to the position.

Allen Tate, for example, served as editor of the Library's *Quarterly Journal* during his tenure and edited the compilation *Sixty American Poets, 1896–1944*. Maxine Kumin initiated a popular women's series of poetry workshops in the Poetry Room. Howard Nemerov conducted poetry seminars at the Library for high school English students.

Others have suggested and chaired literary festivals and conferences; still others have filled their calendars speaking at schools and universities, and receiving in the Poetry Room members of the U.S. and worldwide literary public.

Most incumbents have furthered the development of the Library's archive of recorded literature, and it has become customary for the Consultant to open the Library's literary season in October with a reading of his or her own work and to close it in May with a public lecture. In recent years the incumbents have usually presided at public literary programs.

Jennifer Rutland, special assistant in the Poetry and Literature Center, has been with the office since 1973.

Benefactress Gertrude Clarke Whittall in 1950 (Miller of Washington Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress)

An innovative contribution by Howard Nemerov to the varied tapestry that is the Laureateship has been his willingness to compose what major poets, with little or no apparent enthusiasm, refer to as "occasional verse." Professor Nemerov's first gesture as Laureate was to compose a poem to launch the 1988 Combined Federal Campaign at the Library.

Later, at the invitation of the Historian of the House of Representatives, Raymond Smock, the poet wrote and delivered in the House Chamber a poem celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Congress. The poem delighted all assembled with its Nemerovian conclusion: "Praise without end for the go-ahead zeal/of whoever it was invented the wheel;/but never a word for the poor soul's sake/that thought ahead, and invented the brake."

And NASA invited him to observe the Atlantis launch and document his impressions. Although the craft did not lift off as first scheduled, the Laureate's poem did, and it will be widely distributed to schools by NASA.

Another ongoing activity of the Poetry and Literature Center is the recommendation and invitation by the Poet Laureate and the center staff to writers to record for the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature, the Library's audio tape collection. Begun in the early 1950s, the collection now includes recordings of more than 1,200 authors reading their own work. Authors may be invited to record in the Library studios during a visit to Washington, or may be sent tape on which to record at professional sound studios in their home locales.

All public literary programs presented at the Library by the Poetry and Literature Center are tape-recorded, audio and (since

Robert Penn Warren, first to hold title of Poet Laureate (by William Ferris, University of Mississippi Archives)

At a press conference in the Whittall Pavilion during the Poetry Consultants Reunion, March 30, 1987: Maxine Kumin (left), Howard Nemerov, Anthony Hecht, William Stafford, Richard Eberhart, James Dickey, Sir Stephen Spender, William Jay Smith, Daniel Hoffman, Josephine Jacobsen, Reed Whittemore, Karl Shapiro, and Gwendolyn Brooks.

1966) video, for this archival collection. From time to time, as funds permit, discs and audio cassettes have been issued from the archive. In all recording activity, the center works closely with the recording laboratory of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

In a current project, Grace Cavalieri, host of the WPFW-FM radio program "The Poet and the Poem," is visiting the Recording Lab to tape a series of three-way poetry conversations among Ms. Cavalieri, guest-host Nancy Galbraith, and visiting poets such as Josephine Jacobsen, Hilary Tham, Roland Flint, Maxine Kumin, and Dolores Kendrick. (Program air dates will be announced in the *Bulletin*.)

A visit to the Poetry Room for a briefing and conversation has become a key stop on the itineraries of visiting international writers, editors, publishers, and teachers, through arrangements made by the U.S. Information Agency, the Department of State, and other cultural agencies. In the hospitable ambience of the Poetry Room, with its view of the dome of the Capitol and the Mall beyond, visitors are given personal overviews by both center staff members and the Poet Laureate of the current literary scene in the United States.

Four writers from Czechoslovakia recently visited the Poetry Room, and during a light-hearted moment I said to them, "Well, perhaps you could become Visiting Czech Writers in Residence at U.S. universities!" One of the visitors replied, with a sigh of relief, "Wonderful! Then we could *write*. We have been too busy with the revolution to *write*!"

During cordial get-togethers such as this, views are exchanged on comparative literary matters in the respective countries and a wide variety of literary information, contacts, and resources are exchanged. Often visitors stay for an evening Library literary event at which they have an incomparable opportunity to mingle with local American writers and readers.

Note: Gifts of funds for specific Poetry and Literature Center projects are welcome. Potential donors may write to the Poetry and Literature Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or call (202) 707-5394.

Poetry's Catbird Seat Chronicles the Consultantship in Poetry

The history of the post of Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress is recorded in William McGuire's book *Poetry's Catbird Seat*, published by the Library of Congress in 1988.

Among the book's jewels are more than 60 photographs of poets, benefactors, and events, and a delightfully irreverent essay by Howard Nemerov titled "What Does the Consultant in Poetry Do?"

The book is available for $21 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Cite the title and stock number (030-000-00204-1) when ordering, and include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Consultants in Poetry

Joseph Auslander, 1937–41
Allen Tate, 1943–44
Robert Penn Warren, 1944–45
Louise Bogan, 1945–46
Karl Shapiro, 1946–47
Robert Lowell, 1947–48
Léonie Adams, 1948–49
Elizabeth Bishop, 1949–50
Conrad Aiken, 1950–52
—first to serve two terms
William Carlos Williams
—appointed in 1952 but did not serve
Randall Jarrell, 1956–58
Robert Frost, 1958–59
Richard Eberhart, 1959–61
Louis Untermeyer, 1961–63
Howard Nemerov, 1963–64
Reed Whittemore, 1964–65
Stephen Spender, 1965–66
James Dickey, 1966–68
William Jay Smith, 1968–70
William Stafford, 1970–71
Josephine Jacobsen, 1971–73
Daniel Hoffman, 1973–74
Stanley Kunitz, 1974–76
Robert Hayden, 1976–78
William Meredith, 1978–80
Maxine Kumin, 1981–82
Anthony Hecht, 1982–84
Robert Fitzgerald, 1984–85
—appointed and served in health-limited capacity, but did not come to the Library
Reed Whittemore, 1984–85
—Interim Consultant
Gwendolyn Brooks, 1985–86
Robert Penn Warren, 1986–87
—first to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry
Richard Wilbur, 1987–88
Howard Nemerov, 1988–90

The Personal Touch: A Profile of Nancy Galbraith

High atop the ornate facade of the Thomas Jefferson Building the Library's Poetry Room faces out on the U.S. Capitol. For the past 24 years, Nancy Galbraith has worked in this northwest attic room as the guardian muse of a procession of world-class poets, speaking with them on a day-to-day basis, serving as their liaison with the public and the press, and making certain that their time at the Library is as fulfilling as possible.

As head of the Poetry and Literature Center, Ms. Galbraith cares for both the poets and their audiences. She is extremely enthusiastic about the Library's provision of a place in which guests may listen to quality literary performances and mingle with the writers afterward.

At the Library's public literary programs she provides the comfort and ease that ensures the guests' well-being in a formal setting. Regulars at the programs see her welcoming visitors to a lecture or reading and "working the room," speaking to old hands and newcomers alike.

She is conscientious regarding her organization of these performances, wanting everything to go "just so." Before each program she and her assistant of many years, Jennifer Rutland, check details. They arrange seating, check microphone voice levels with the recording technician, and check the lighting. As she puts it, "I want the programs to be well made, but with our stitching invisible. I would like people to see that the Library takes much care in its presentations."

Although Ms. Galbraith directs the teamwork that goes into a literary evening, she points out that by the time the last guest goes out the door key contributions to the event have come not only from the donors and the performers, but from hard-working persons at all levels of the Library. She calls all those who help her put on the show her "heroes."

As special assistant to three past directors of the literature program, Ms. Galbraith has coordinated more than 300 public literary programs, among them several two-day scholarly conferences, including the "George Orwell and 1984," conference and the 1987 Consultants Reunion. She has assisted the last 15 Poetry Consultants and the first three Poets Laureate. As she puts it, her slot at the Library has given her over two decades of on-the-job-training.

After serving nearly two years as acting director of the Poetry and Literature Program Ms. Galbraith now heads the Poetry and Literature Center, working directly under the new director of Scholarly Programs, Prosser Gifford. She works closely with him and with the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in coordinating the literary series of distinguished authors, scholars, and performers. Her responsibilities also include overseeing the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature.

To her administrative duties she brings long experience and strong affiliations in the contemporary literary world. She knows poetry, and she knows who enjoys listening to the well-written word; but she also knows those who don't, and she dreams up ways of reaching them. Years of organizing programs and working with writers and their work has made Ms. Galbraith a recognized authority on poetry and literature.

Ms. Galbraith's many interests bring a rich array of experience to her life. Her graduate work was in art therapy, and in 1989 she was invited by the National Association for Poetry Therapy to deliver a keynote address at their annual conference. The paper, in which she synthesized some of her musings about art and poetry, was titled "Necessary Poems, Necessary Drawings."

Ms. Galbraith's article titled "A Foster Child's Pictorial Expression

Nancy Galbraith with current Poet Laureate Howard Nemerov.

of Ambivalence" and several of her book reviews have been published in the *American Journal of Art Therapy*. She also teaches drawing each spring in a short course she developed for adults that she calls "I Can't Draw."

Her "things to do" list includes encouraging other writers, and she gives them some time-honored advice: make notes anytime, anywhere, and jot down images that strike you as worth remembering for future reference; begin by submitting your work to the "little magazines," but do not worry about publication before polishing your craft; always revise your writing until it is as clear as you can make it. She is always available to those seeking help with writing.

Recognition of her own writing is one of several good things that have happened to Nancy Galbraith lately. She won a 1988 PEN Syndicated Fiction Project award for her first short story, "Fantastic Ambition," and the story was later named by the Project one of that year's ten best winning stories.

Interviewed last year on poet Grace Cavalieri's radio program, "The Poet and the Poem," Ms. Galbraith read from her work and entertained listeners with her candid responses and dry humor. About her writing she confided that she gets "a wonderful feeling either having pen in hand, or putting a clean piece of paper into the typewriter, and relishing every moment of revising and polishing a poem, an essay, or a story.

"I enjoy the possibility of seeing my fiction appear in syndicated newspapers, where my stories would take on that ephemeral, vanishing quality of biodegradable newsprint," she added. She longs to write "of the magical, the wry, the satirical. But I also love to talk, to communicate."

Ms. Galbraith plans to continue her poetic efforts but wants to work toward mastering the serious short story. Upon retirement she hopes to publish comic verse, serious short stories, romance novels, and thrillers, incorporating the humor that turns up in her daily contact with the characters in her life.

Ms. Galbraith reacts with energy when talk turns to prospective literary programs at the Library. The projects she envisions in the months ahead include expanding the poetry audio and video recording program and enlisting the Library in vigorously marketing the tapes of visiting writers.

She also shares with the Library administration the desire that the Poet Laureateship increase its visibility as a national post. The current Laureate, Howard Nemerov, is scheduled to travel to a state Center for the Book, and to welcome more high school groups to informal Library settings to hear and talk poetry.

During the current literary season the closing for renovation of the Coolidge Auditorium—the usual site of the poetry readings—has necessitated some program innovations.

Ms. Galbraith began the "Evenings With Authors" series in a new setting, with programs either in the Montpelier Room or the Mumford Room of the Madison Building, and created a cabaret ambience by seating audience members at small tables with tablecloths and candles. An earlier starting time—6 p.m.—was chosen in an attempt to draw the after-work audience.

Audience turnout has been good. The location of this literary series is different, but the comfortable atmosphere is the same; Nancy Galbraith is there to see that both artist and audience are warmly welcomed.

—John Sullivan

Library Hosts Ceremony Marking Issue of Marianne Moore Stamp

The Library of Congress will hold a ceremony in conjunction with the Washington, D.C., Post Office to celebrate American poet Marianne Moore (1887-1972) and the U.S. commemorative postage stamp issued April 18 in her honor. The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 4, at 11 a.m. in the Mary Pickford Theater. Because of limited seating, attendance is restricted to invited guests.

The commemorative stamp will be

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Stamp *(Cont. from p. 159)*
sold to the public from noon until 4 p.m. in the Pickford lobby on the third floor of the James Madison Memorial Building. The stamp may be purchased and hand-cancelled with a special postmark made available by the post office. A limited number of special-issue Library of Congress envelopes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, several first and limited editions of Marianne Moore's work, assembled by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and the Interpretive Programs Office, will be on display May 4 in the Pickford lobby.

Following the event, a private luncheon will be held in honor of Howard Nemerov, Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, 1988–90, and the Moore family. Marianne Moore was introduced by Howard Nemerov in a poetry reading she gave at the Library on October 21, 1963. An audio tape of that reading (Tape 4118) and others featuring Moore are in the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Marianne Moore's literary career was launched in 1915 when T.S. Eliot selected her poems to appear in *The Egoist*, a London magazine. Her first book, *Poems*, was published in 1921. *Collected Poems* (1951) won the Pulitzer Prize, the Bollingen Prize, and the National Book Award.

The commemorative stamp was designed by M. Gregory Rudd and features a portrait of Marianne Moore set against a dark blue background. Mr. Rudd based his design on a photograph of the poet taken in 1935 by George Platt Lynes. The Moore stamp is part of the Literary Arts Series of stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

–Patricia Gray

Poet Laureate Nemerov Reads at Library May 3

Howard Nemerov, Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress, will read his poems on Thursday, May 3, at 6 p.m. in the Montpelier Room on the sixth floor of the James Madison Memorial Building. This will be his final reading at the Library as Poet Laureate. Tickets are not required.

Mr. Nemerov, who received the Pulitzer Prize in poetry in 1978, served previously as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1963–64. He is now Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis.

Of his eleven books of poetry, *War Stories: Poems about Long Ago and Now* (1987) is his latest. He is also the author of three novels and two collections of short stories. A renowned essayist for more than 20 years, he has gathered his essays in *Poetry and Fiction: Essays* (1963) and six more collections, of which *The Oak and the Acorn* (1983) is the most recent.

Appointments *(Cont. from p. 154)*
and Cultural Museum in Philadelphia, where she has been director of exhibits since 1986, with the added job of associate director for planning and development since June 1989.

Her previous Federal experience includes positions at the National Endowment for the Humanities as program specialist, Division of Public Programs (1973–74), and acting assistant director/program officer, Museum and Historical Organizations Program (1974–78). She was a program analyst for the U.S. Department of Energy (1979–81); personnel management specialist for the National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities (1971–73); and a position classification specialist for the Agency for International Development (1970–71).

She is a graduate of Marygrove College in Detroit (B.A., German) and the University of Dayton (M.A., philosophy).

As interpretive programs officer, Ms. Burnham will head the Library's newly named Office of Interpretive Programs (formerly the Exhibits Office) under the general direction of the Associate Librarian for Cultural Affairs.

In addition to planning and directing exhibitions, the interpretive program officer develops broad thematic programs involving publications and conferences, directs the Library's national and international Traveling Exhibits and Education Program, advises the Architect of the Capitol and the Library on the design and function of the Library's public interpretive spaces, and coordinates the lending of items from the Library's collections for outside exhibits.

Ellen Hahn, who has served since October 1 as acting director for Public Service and Collections Management II, assumed that position on a permanent basis effective March 26.

During the Library's reorganization over the last two years, Ms. Hahn has served as acting director

Ellen Hahn

for research services and acting special projects officer. She was also coordinator of the Special Projects Transition Team and the Constituent Services Transition Team.

She has been chief of the General Reading Rooms Division since 1978 and spent 1988 on detail to the Office of the Librarian as chair of the Management and Planning (MAP) Committee, which was responsible for developing the recent reorganization.

Ms. Hahn came to the Library from the Chicago Public Library in 1975 as assistant chief for network development for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She headed the team that designed the print Optical Disk Pilot Project in 1983 as well as the 1987 team that investigated and made recommendations for future applications of optical disk technology. She has chaired several committees of the American Library Association.

Ms. Hahn is a graduate of Washburn University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, French) and holds a master's degree in library science from Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia State University).

As director for Public Service and Collections Management II, Ms. Hahn is one of two officials (Winston Tabb is the other) responsible for all aspects of service and custody of the Library's collections, including reader services, reference and specialized research, control and maintenance of the collections, acquisitions, circulation, and related public programs.

Ms. Hahn will report to the Associate Librarian for Constituent Services. The divisions reporting directly to her are Children's Literature, Collections Management, European, General Reading Rooms, Hispanic, Loan, National Referral Center, Science and Technology, Serial and Government Publications, and Visitor Services.

Kenneth E. Harris has been appointed director for preservation, effective April 9. Donald Wisdom, chief of the Serial and Government Publications Division, had served as acting director since former director Peter Sparks left last fall.

Mr. Harris has been with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where he has served since 1986 as director of the Preservation Policy and Services Division. From 1983 to 1986 he was acting chief, and subsequently, chief of the Document Conservation Branch. In 1986 he was also concurrently the acting Deputy Assistant Archivist for the National Archives. He first came to NARA in 1968 as an archivist in the Diplomatic, Legal, and Fiscal Records Division.

Mr. Harris received both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Oklahoma State University, where his major fields of study were history and historiography.

He is the current chair of the Committee on Conservation and Restoration of the International Council on Archives and a member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the Society of American Archivists. He received a Presidential Commendation for service in 1977-78 on the

Kenneth E. Harris

President's Task Force on Reorganization of the Federal Government.

As director for preservation, Mr. Harris will be responsible for Library-wide activities relating to the preservation, conservation, restoration, protection, and maintenance of the Library's collections.

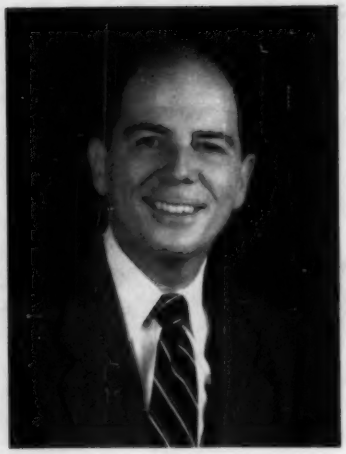
He will serve as national preservation program officer, and develop and direct the National Preservation Program Office located at the Library of Congress. Additional offices under his jurisdiction include the Binding Office, Conservation Office, Preservation Research and Testing Office, and the Preservation Microfilming Office.

Mr. Harris will also direct the Library's book deacidification project which is being scaled up to deacidify up to one million books per year.

Winston Tabb, who has served as acting Deputy Librarian of Congress since June 1989, became director for Public Service and Collections Management I, effective March 26. He will continue concurrently as acting Deputy Librarian until June 1.

Mr. Tabb has been with the Library of Congress since 1972, when he was a participant in the

(Cont. on p. 162)



Winston Tabb

Library's Intern Program for outstanding library school graduates. After completing the internship, he joined the staff of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), working initially as a reference specialist in the Congressional Reference Division.

From 1974 to 1975, he was a congressional research administrator in the Office of the Director of CRS. He was subsequently appointed team leader of the Congressional Reading Room and in 1977 became administrator of the Inquiry Unit. In 1978, Mr. Tabb was appointed assistant chief of the General Reading Rooms Division.

In March 1984, he became chief of the Information and Reference Division of the Copyright Office. He was appointed chief of the Library's Loan Division in March 1988 and selected in October of that same year to fill a one-year appointment as director for research services. During 1988, Mr. Tabb also served as vice chair of the Management and Planning (MAP) Committee and later as coordinator of the Collections Services Transition Team.

Mr. Tabb graduated *magna cum laude* from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1963. He earned a master's degree in American literature from Harvard University in 1964, and another in library science from Simmons College in 1972.

As director of Public Service and Collections Management I, Mr. Tabb's duties are similar to those of Ms. Hahn, except for a different reporting structure and separate subordinate divisions. Mr. Tabb reports to the Associate Librarian for Collections Services.

The divisions under Public Service and Collections Management I are African and Middle Eastern; Asian; Geography and Map; Manuscript; Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; Music; Prints and Photographs; and Rare Book and Special Collections.

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, became acting Associate Librarian for Cultural Affairs on March 5. He will serve in this position until May 31. He succeeds Alan Jabbour, who has returned to his duties as director of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress.

As acting Associate Librarian for Cultural Affairs, Dr. Cole's responsibilities expand to include the American Folklife Center, the Office of Communications, Office of Development, Office of Interpretive Programs, Office of Scholarly Programs, and Office of Special Events and Public Programs.

Earth Day Shelf Set Up In Science Reading Room

In conjunction with Earth Day 1990 (celebrated April 22), the Science Reference staff has organized an Earth Day Shelf in the Science Reading Room at the Library of Congress.

There are books from the Library of Congress Earth Day Reading List; copies of that list (which will appear in an upcoming LC *Information Bulletin*); books from the collections on related topics; and a collection of pamphlets and articles. A list of Science Division *Tracer Bullets* indicates related bibliographies.

New CDS Publications

USMARC Format For Holdings Data

USMARC Format for Holdings Data has just been published by the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) of the Library of Congress. It defines the codes and conventions (tags, indicators, subfield codes, and coded values) that identify the data elements in USMARC holdings records, based on the two American National Standards Institute/National Information Standards Organization (ANSI/NISO) standards for holdings: *Serial Holdings Statements* (Z39.44) and *Holdings Statements for Non-Serial Items* (Z39.57).

The new publication represents a review, restructuring, and updating of the Final Draft of the *USMARC Format for Holdings and Locations* to make it consistent in presentation with the other USMARC documentation.

This looseleaf product contains the results of a general review of content designator terminology and provides expanded guidelines for application of the content designators. It includes changes to the format resulting from proposals which were considered by the ALA ALCTS/LITA/RASD Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee (MARBI) since the publication of Update No. 1 (October 1987) through January 1990.

USMARC Format for Holdings Data includes four appendixes: Appendix A maps the data elements in the ANSI/NISO holdings standards to those in USMARC; Appendix B provides full record examples, both for serial holdings statements and nonserial holdings statements; Appendix C is a glossary of terms used in the document; and Appendix D lists changes made to the format in this new version.

This publication supersedes the Final Draft of the *USMARC Format for Holdings and Locations* and its Update No. 1. *USMARC Format for Holdings Data* sells for $25 (United States) and $28 (international).

CONSER Editing Guide Update No. 5

CDS has published Update No. 5 of the *CONSER Editing Guide*. By using the base text and updates, serial catalogers can assure that their cataloging conforms to current standards followed by the Cooperative Online Serials (CONSER) Program.

The new update contains references to rules and interpretations reflecting the 1988 revised second edition of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*. It also includes changes to content designation based on Update No. 1 of *USMARC Format for Bibliographic Data*.

Update No. 5 also features: a new index that covers all three parts of the base text; the updated CONSER directory and bibliography; new definitions of two authentication center codes; and guidelines for cataloging serials that change their physical format.

The *CONSER Editing Guide* and updates are prepared by the Library's Serial Record Division.

A complete *CONSER Editing Guide* package includes all updates and is available as follows: *CONSER Editing Guide* base text in looseleaf with binder, $30; Update No. 1, $15; Update No. 2, $10; Update No. 3, $20; Update No. 4, $20; Update No. 5, $20 (United States) or $23 (international).

Standing orders for future updates are being accepted.

Both publications are available from the Customer Services Section, Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20541 (telephone: 202-707-6100; Fax: 202-707-1334).

Copyright Acquisitions Division Celebrates $10,000,000 in Acquisitions

Members of the Copyright Acquisitions Division gather to celebrate: Front—*Dianne Burrell (left), Maria Bodnaruk, Frances Fulton, Laila Mulgaokar (chief), Sonya Porter, Meredith Haddock, and George Cru;* Back—*William Poole (left), Carroll Grant, Lili Poloskey, William Barry, Alma Edwards, William Laing, David Nieto, and Stephen Rosenblatt.*

Staff members of the Copyright Acquisitions Division recently celebrated their acquisition of more than $10,000,000 in works and fees since January 1, 1978, as a result of enforcing section 407 of the copyright law. The acquired works, demanded in all formats for the Library's collections, represent claims initiated in the division or by the Library's recommending officers.

Those throughout the Library who have worked with the staff—recommending and selecting officers, administrative support staff, other acquisitions offices, area and subject specialists—were invited to share coffee and dessert with division staff members in celebration of their accomplishment.

Among those congratulating the division staff were Michael Pew, associate register of copyrights for management, Copyright Office; Henriette Avram, Associate Librarian for Collections Services; and Mary Price, director for acquisitions, Collections Services.

Librarian Invites Past And Present Library Employees to ALA Reception

Library of Congress staff members and former employees attending the annual meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago this June are invited to join the Librarian of Congress for coffee and informal discussion on Sunday, June 24, at 7:30 a.m. The coffee will be held in the Appenzell Suite at the Swiss Grand Hotel, 323 E. Wacker Drive.

R.S.V.P. to (202) 707-5205 by June 13.

Window on Africa: A Visit to the Nairobi Field Office

Anyone contemplating a change in career can head for the Library of Congress and consult *Breeding and Marketing of Race Camels in Eastern Sudan*, a recent publication of the Somali Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The fact that this title, and thousands of others from East Africa, can be found on the shelves of the Library of Congress is largely due to the acquisitions and cataloging activities of the Library's Nairobi field office and its director, James C. Armstrong.

Recently I took some time out from a vacation trip in Kenya to meet Mr. Armstrong for a first-hand look at one of the Library's six far-flung overseas offices.

The Library of Congress office is located in downtown Nairobi, a raucous, urban environment of undistinguished architecture and one million inhabitants, all of whom appear to be either driving or dodging across streets in front of cars.

The lobby directory of a modern cement office block called "Bruce House" listed the Library of Congress on the ninth floor. Because the elevator was out of order (not an infrequent occurrence there), I hiked up the stairs and arrived at the office a bit more breathless with anticipation than I intended.

Mr. Armstrong said he was between acquisition trips ("my usual condition") and agreed to describe his activities and the operations of the office.

The Nairobi field office is responsible for acquiring and cataloging materials from 21 countries in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. This area encompasses approximately three and one-half million square miles. Even after the recent transfer of the Sudan to the Cairo field office this is still an immense and varied area of responsibility, stretching from Ethiopia on the north to Mozambique and tiny Swaziland to the south. Five Indian Ocean islands or island groups, like the Comoros and the Seychelles, are thrown in for good measure.

Most of the materials acquired consist of government publications—often elusive and in many cases obtained only after personal meetings with the local officials who are responsible for them.

"I can't tell you the number of times I've been up at 4 a.m. packing books to take back on a flight home," Mr. Armstrong ruefully admitted.

Constantly changing political situations and deteriorating economies in this part of the world pose difficult problems for anyone trying to keep a handle on the printed word.

"Revolutions are bad for publishing," Mr. Armstrong said. "In many cases these countries have weak institutional memories. Officials change. Sometimes I know more about where their documents can be found than they do.

"With one or two exceptions, none of these countries are prospering and publishing activities suffer. Our statistics are still about the same as they were 20 years ago."

Still, overseas offices add about 250,000 items a year to the Library of Congress. Other institutions benefit as well. Multiple copies are sometimes difficult to obtain, but the

Barbara Bush Foundation Co-Hosts Family Literacy Symposium at Library

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the Library of Congress's Center for the Book hosted a Family Literacy Symposium at the Library on January 23.

Symposium participants included: John Y. Cole (left), director of the Center for the Book; Regina Osteen Lynn, a student in the Kenan Family Literacy Program in Madison County, N.C.; Mildred Shelton, director of the Kenan program in Madison County; and Sharon Darling, president of the National Center for Family Literacy and a member of the board of directors of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Nairobi office also collects selected items for the Center for Research Libraries, the National Agricultural Library, the National Library of Medicine, the New York Public Library, and the Yale University Law Library. A Kenyan serials program was just started. And the bimonthly *Accessions List: Eastern Africa* lists publications acquired and is distributed to about 1,000 libraries worldwide.

Once the material is in hand, getting it back to Nairobi becomes an exercise in logistics. American embassies can be of assistance through diplomatic pouch or the APO mail system. But sometimes the only alternative is for Mr. Armstrong to rely on his 75-pound overweight baggage allowance and carry the material in an old army dufflebag on an airplane himself.

For all its challenges, Mr. Armstrong finds his job personally rewarding. He first came to Kenya 25 years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer, and became the headmaster of a local secondary school. He went on to work as an African Studies librarian at Boston University before becoming field director of the Nairobi office in 1977.

"I'm interested in books, and I'm interested in Africa," he said. "This job is ideally suited for both."

—Craig D'Ooge

Dutch Television Airs Interview on Library's Dutch Collections

The Netherlands Broadcasting Corporation (Nederlandse Omroep Stichting, or NSO) aired an interview about the Dutch collections at the Library of Congress on Dutch national television on November 16, 1989. Paul Sneijder, Washington bureau chief for NOS-Television-News, interviewed Margrit B. Krewson, German/Dutch area specialist in the European Division, on the history and development of the Dutch collections.

American Journalist Exhibition Opens

The exhibition "The American Journalist: Paradox of the Press" opened at the Library of Congress on April 5 in the Madison Gallery of the James Madison Memorial Building.

Highlights include the only surviving copy of the first newspaper published in North America, Ernie Pyle's typewriter, and pages from Bob Woodward's reporter's notebook recording the Watergate break-in.

The show is open to the public 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, through August 12.

Library to Screen Restored Capra Films

Nineteen film classics directed by Frank Capra and newly restored by the Library of Congress will be shown at the Library's Mary Pickford Theater beginning later this year.

One of these classics, *Lost Horizon*, received a special showing at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, Calif., in February. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington was on hand to introduce the film, which was restored by the Library under a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation of Palo Alto.

In January 1989 the foundation gave the Library $150,000 to preserve and restore the best available negatives and prints of the 19 Capra films in the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Capra's pictures are seen so regularly in repertory cinema programs and on television that it is difficult to imagine that they are in danger of being lost. But in the process of restoring the many classics in the Library's collections, that danger has become apparent.

For example, the original negative of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* has been badly damaged by being used repeatedly to make new projection prints. The original sound tract has been lost or destroyed. Such problems exist for many of the Capra works.

The full restoration of the films will take many years and involve locating and borrowing the best available material from production studios and other archives throughout the world.

As new and improved preservation materials are created, it is hoped that two copies of archival negatives can be created. One will be placed in the vaults of the Library of Congress and the other with the companies who own the rights to distribute the films. This plan will insure the preservation and availability of these classics for future generations.

Correction

In the IFLA report carried in the LC *Information Bulletin* of January 15, the minutes of the Section for Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons (page 44) incorrectly stated that the section held no standing committee meetings during the conference. Two standing committee meetings and three working group meetings were held.

The minutes from these meetings may be obtained by writing to section secretary John M. Day, University Librarian, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002-3625.

STAFF NEWS

Annual Awards Recognize Employee Excellence

Kaseem C. Hall of the Science Policy Research Division, Congressional Research Service, has Dr. Billington sign her Meritorious Service Award after the ceremony.

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, held the annual Librarian's Honor Awards Ceremony in the Mumford Room on January 23. In his opening remarks, Dr. Billington gave praise and thanks to "those men and women who have given the Library that extra effort, that extra professionalism, that extra leadership that makes this great library such a special institution."

During the ceremony, Dorothy J. Glasby and Robert C. Sullivan received Distinguished Service Awards. Superior Service Awards were given to George A. Costello, Edward A. D'Alessandro, Susan C. Finsen, Ann M. Fox, Jacqueline M. Granville, Ellen Hahn, Mary B. Levering, Suzy Platt, Lawrence S. Robinson, William H. Robinson, Winston Tabb, Suzanne E. Thorin, Emmett G. Trainor, Clay H. Wellborn, and Mae Eng Yaplee.

The Licensing Division of the Copyright Office received a group Superior Service Award. Fifty-two individuals and 10 groups were Meritorious Service Awards recipients; 129 individuals and six groups were Special Achievement Award recipients; and 284 employees were Quality Increase recipients.

Special tribute was paid to Henriette D. Avram, who received the Senior Executives Association/ Professional Development League's 1989 Executive Excellence Award for Distinguished Executive Service.

Length of service awards were presented to Library staff who had completed 45, 40, 35, and 30 years of Federal service.

The program opened with a musical presentation by flutist Carol A. Kilroy, and a welcome by staff relations officer Barbara E. Young.

Constituent Services Awards Staff Members For Special Achievements

Donald C. Curran, Acting Associate Librarian for Constituent Services, conducted the first Constituent Services Special Achievement Awards Ceremony on January 18 in the Whittall Pavilion. Sixty-four staff members were recognized for significant accomplishments and suggestions made during 1989.

In his remarks, Mr. Curran commended the staff members for their perseverance and dedication, especially during the months of intense transition and renovation activities. The staff members represented divisions which had comprised the Research Services Department and now are part of both Constituent and Collections Services.

Winston Tabb, Acting Deputy Librarian and former director for Research Services, extended congratulations from the Librarian.

The following staff members received Special Achievement Awards: **African and Middle Eastern Division**—Nahid Gerstein and Karam Habashy; **Asian Division**—Michiko Kitsmiller; **Collections Management Division**—Ann Banks, Linda Gray, Patrick Kerwin, Thomas King, Patricia McCray, Cristal Piper, Monica Robinson, Tina Boland, David Lewis, and Dennis Hawkes; **Federal Research Division**—Sara Arason, Carla Bussey, Walter Iwaskiw, Alberta King, Timothy Merrill, Helen Metz, Barbara Edgerton, Marilyn Majeska, Izella Watson, Thomas Collello, Jane Englund, Richard Haggerty, and Robert Handloff; **Geography and Map Division**—Richard Stephenson; **General Reading Rooms Division**—Annette Hale, Thomas Mann, Mary Ammen, Deborah Barnes, Christine Anderson, Richard Greenfield,

STAFF NEWS

Sandra Lawson, and Ralph Whittington; **Loan Division**—Mark Mattucci, William Sundwick, Walter Wiggins, Elizabeth Battle, Lillie Carey, Paulette Green, Annette James, Ciscero Jones, Johnny Lee, Christine Mills, Catherine Monickam, Michael Neal, Robert Overmiller, Brenda Ologunja, Elgin Reid, Zion Sid; **Music Division**—Elmer Booze, William Parsons, Charles Sens, and Wayne Shirley; **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**—Alice Freeman; **Serial and Government Publications Division**—Donald Hardy, Cheryl King, Trina Mackie, Michael Smihula, and Arnold Wiggins.

Right: *At the Constituent Services ceremony Mr. Curran (left) and Christopher Wright, acting chief of the Loan Division, congratulate staff members Annette James, Elizabeth Battle, Lillie Carey, Ciscero Jones, and Elgin Reid (in background).*

Frances Howard Receives 25-Year Pin

Celebrating Frances Howard's 25 years of service were: Imre T. Jarmy (left), assistant chief, Exchange and Gift Division; David Bloxsom, head, Documents Expediting Section; Ms. Howard; and Mrs. Avram.

Frances A. Howard, documents expediting assistant in the Exchange and Gift Division, received her 25-year pin from Henriette D. Avram, Associate Librarian for Collections Services, on February 21.

Mrs. Howard began her Federal career with the Department of the Navy in 1964. That same year she joined the Library's Catalog Maintenance and Publication Division (CM&P) as an arranging and distribution assistant.

She went on to hold more responsible supervisory positions in that division and was recognized for her outstanding performance with a Meritorious Service Award in 1971, quality step increases in 1979 and 1980, and a Special Achievement Award in 1986. She joined the Document Expediting Section in 1986.

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